



## Behavioral Health | Major, Minor, Certificate

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### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

The Bachelor of Art in Behavioral Health degree was established to provide a solid core of knowledge and skills for individuals seeking positions in counseling, case management and administration in health and human services fields dealing with issues primarily related to addiction and mental health. With its practice-based concentration, as well as its exposure to the disciplines of psychology, social work and criminal justice, the Behavioral Health degree is designed to build the broad-based, professional competencies necessary to address the challenges presented by today's complex behavioral health and human services problems.

Students who major in Behavioral Health will find their educational experience both enriching and enjoyable. Both face-to-face and online classes are available, delivered by full-time and adjunct faculty with current professional experience. Our faculty includes national educators and published professionals, as well as top-level administrators who are actively involved with changes occurring in the behavioral health field. With almost 40 years of history, the Behavioral Health degree is one of the oldest and best of its kind to be found at the college or university level.

Behavioral Health coursework is designed with a practice-based emphasis grounded in current theory and evidence-based practices. This critical connection between theory and practice allows for the synthesis of knowledge and skills that can be applied in the real world. Behavioral Health majors complement their classroom education 400 hours of field placements in licensed or state-approved programs, facilities and agencies. Such placements give Behavioral Health majors valuable exposure to and experience in actual clinical environments prior to graduation.

Students intending to pursue a career as licensed professionals will need to meet additional graduate and licensure requirements. At Alvernia University, students intending to continue into the Masters of Arts in Clinical Counseling (MAAC) Program are required to take PSY 101, PSY 250 and a Statistics or Research Methods course.

### CAREER SUCCESS

Behavioral health graduates are successful in finding employment in a wide range of organizations, and possess the skills to flexibly move between different disciplines within the field. The Behavioral Health program maintains an excellent employment placement rate. The Office of Career Development can offer assistance with resume' preparation, interviewing and job searches.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Addiction Counseling  
Case Management  
Child Welfare  
Community-Based Programs

Detoxification  
Hospitals  
Inpatient Treatment  
Mental Health Counseling

Outpatient Treatment  
Prevention Education Programs  
Probation/Parole  
Transitional Living Facilities

### ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA

Alpha Sigma Lambda is the premier national honor society for nontraditional adult students. Its aim is to recognize the special achievements of adults who accomplish academic excellence while facing competing interests of home and work. For the nontraditional student, the Society stands as an inspiration for continuing scholastic growth and is a builder of pride through recognition. The Alvernia University ASL Chapter serves as a vehicle for imparting appreciation for adult students' academic achievements and contributions. To this day Alpha Sigma Lambda is not only the oldest, but also the largest chapter-based honor society for full-time and part-time students.

### CERTIFICATION

All Behavioral Health program courses are approved by the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB), which provides credentialing to substance abuse and other behavioral health professionals. Behavioral Health program coursework can be used to fulfill PCB education requirements for certification and recertification. PCB certified professionals in Pennsylvania have reciprocity with many certifying bodies throughout the United States and internationally. Students who plan to practice outside of Pennsylvania should contact the PCB for more information.

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

*Program requirements are subject to change. Contact your admissions counselor for the most up-to-date information.*

**BA/Behavioral Health Major** (54 credits). Students must achieve a grade of “C” or better in all Major courses

**Liberal Arts Core** (54/55 credits). Students entering the program with 70+ credits or an Associate’s degree must complete 30/31 Liberal Arts Core credits.

**General Elective requirements** (as needed). A total of 123 credits, including 3 credits in a human diversity course, are required to complete a Bachelor’s degree. To adhere to Franciscan Values, community service hours are also required. In addition, at least 30 credits at the 300/400 level must be taken at Alvernia University.

Note: Advisors can tell you whether you can get credit for your life experience applied toward your degree.

### Core Requirements in Major (36 credits)

- BH 201 Foundations of Chemical Dependency
- BH 202 Origins of Mental Illness
- BH 204 Counseling Theories
- BH 230 Assessment and Evaluation
- BH 303 Counseling Techniques I
- BH 305 Group Counseling I
- BH 310 Legal and Ethical Issues in Counseling
- BH 330 Crisis Intervention
- BH 404 Practicum Field Experience 1 (100 hours)
- BH 405 Practicum Field Experience 2 (100 hours)
- BH 406 Practicum Field Experience 3 (100 hours)
- BH 407 Practicum Field Experience 4/Senior Capstone (100 hours)

### Related Requirements (9 credits)

- PSY 101 Introductory Psychology
- PSY 208 Developmental Psychology
- PSY 215 Multicultural Issues in Psychology

### Major Electives (9 credits)

Courses may be chosen from Behavioral Health, Criminal Justice, Psychology or Social Work. Six credits must be at 300-400 level.

### Behavioral Health Electives

- BH 220 Prevention and Intervention Services
- BH 240 Addictive Behaviors
- BH 300 Case Management
- BH 304 Counseling Techniques II
- BH 306 Group Counseling II
- BH 315 Treatment Planning and Case Conceptualization
- BH 320 Neuropharmacology
- BH 400 Marriage and Family Counseling
- BH 402 Management of Human Services Organizations
- BH 411 Counseling Special Populations (topics vary)
- BH 413 Special Issues Seminar (topics vary)

### Behavioral Health Minor or Certificate (21 credits)

BH 201, BH 202, BH 204, BH 303, BH 310 and two Behavioral Health electives

## LOCATIONS

Students can choose to take classes where and when it is most convenient. This program is offered on campus at our Reading, Philadelphia and Pottsville locations.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Alvernia University (Reading)  
School of Adult Education  
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